More buses between Delhi and Lahore

† 4258. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that people have to book their tickets in two months advance for travelling in Delhi-Lahore bus;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to start additional bus service for making Delhi-Lahore bus service more effective; and

(d) if so, by when Government propose to start the additional bus service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no formal proposal at this juncture.

Private participation in road sector

4259. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: WiU the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private companies taking up construction of different sectors of Highways are being paid high cost of maintenance charges;

(b) if so, the sectors of Highways being constructed by private companies, cost of construction perkilometer, costs of maintenance paidper kilometer, and

(c) the criteria being adopted to decide the cost of maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C.KHANDURI): (a) In projects with private sector participation, the companies are not being paid any separate cost of maintenance, which is already included in their bid alongwith other costs, such as construction, operation, financing etc. after duly factoring in various risks.

(b) Details of projects taken up under private sector participation are given in the Statement *(See* below)

(c) Maintenance criteria are specified in the contract.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.